

A TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND
EDMUND M. O'BRIEN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Reverend Edmund M. O'Brien, a resident of Connecticut's Second Congressional District, who is celebrating his 50th year as an ordained priest.

Devoting his life to the service of others, Father O'Brien has faithfully tended to the people of Connecticut as a pastor, teacher, principal, and friend.

Father O'Brien was ordained on February 2, 1957, after completing his education at the St. John Seminary in Boston. Over the past 50 years, he has served as a dedicated pastor and educator to many Connecticut congregations. Currently, he is pastor of St. Adalbert parish in Enfield and director of the parish school.

He once said of his profession, "a teacher affects eternity." As a counselor and consummate supporter of his students, Father O'Brien embodies the compassionate, nurturing, and dedicated values characteristic of our Nation's greatest educators.

A die hard fan of the celebrated Boston Red Sox, Father O'Brien is well-known for delivering score updates to his parishioners when a game has been inconveniently scheduled during a mass celebration.

I am honored to pay tribute to the Reverend Edmund M. O'Brien. Father O'Brien's dedication to his faith, his community, and the children under his care has been, and continues to be, an inspiration to myself and the residents of eastern Connecticut.

A TRIBUTE TO TEMPLE BETH
DAVID

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Temple Beth David, which will be celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. In the past 60 years, the temple has grown into a vibrant community dedicated to the values of Judaism including spiritual discovery, educational richness, and the love and kindness of community and personal responsibility.

Founded by 10 families in 1947, Temple Beth David was the first reform synagogue in the San Gabriel Valley. The original founder, Flora Kahn, is still a member of the congregation. Since its inception, the temple has seen its membership grow to 195 families, spanning the generations. The community welcomes all Jews as well as interfaith couples and encourages non-Jewish spouses to participate in temple life.

Rabbi Alan Lachtman has been with the temple in his current position since 1976. A retired Lieutenant Colonel from the Army Reserves, Rabbi Lachtman has a degree in Marriage Family Therapy and received the Doctorate of Divinity from Hebrew Union College in 1999. He currently teaches at the University of Judaism, and works closely with the Amer-

ican Jewish Committee and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

A dynamic and active temple, Temple Beth David encourages congregant participation and offers a wide variety of programs from interfaith programs and social action projects to religious and Hebrew schools. Demonstrating a commitment to all members of the community, Temple Beth David offers not only youth scholarships but also an array of adult education programs for those who seek a greater understanding of Judaism.

Committed participants not only in temple life but in the larger world as well, the members of Temple Beth David have recently joined the interfaith chorus calling for U.S. Government intervention in Darfur. Along with Rabbi Lachtman, the 195 families of the temple, mindful of their own community's history, are activists for the civilians in Darfur.

It is my privilege to honor Temple Beth David on its anniversary of 60 years of active community and fulfillment in Judaism. I ask all members to join me in wishing the Temple Beth David and its congregants continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE CAREER AND
ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. ALBERT
J. SIMONE

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of a distinguished academic who I am privileged to call my friend, Dr. Albert J. Simone. Dr. Simone has served as the President of Rochester Institute of Technology since September 1, 1992, and during that time I have had the pleasure of working with him as he advanced the university's reputation as a leading career-oriented institution. He is retiring his post this year, and his vision and leadership will be sorely missed.

Before taking the helm at RIT, Dr. Simone served as president of the University of Hawaii System and chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He also taught at several well-respected institutions for higher education, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tufts University, Northeastern University, Boston College, Boston University, University of Cincinnati, and the University of Hawaii. But his achievements go far beyond administration and instruction.

Dr. Simone has authored countless publications, including books and journal articles on the application of mathematics, statistics, and computers to economics and business. He is a founding editor of *Decision Sciences* and is a past president and fellow of the Institute of Decision Sciences. And, although he is retiring, he will continue to make contributions to academia as he is currently in the process of collecting data for a book he will be writing on higher education.

A true trailblazer, Dr. Simone was the first American university president to officially visit North Korea, Vietnam, and Vladivostok when these regions were closed to the United States except for cultural and educational exchange. He oversaw the launch of three Ph.D. programs at RIT in the areas of microsystems

engineering, computing and information sciences, and color science. And, under his stewardship, six bachelor's degree programs have been added to the university's offerings, including programs in information technology, software engineering, chemistry and polymer chemistry, biochemistry, advertising and public relations, and new media publishing. These new programs represent the university's understanding of the needs of the community outside of it, and help distinguish the City of Rochester as a center for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Dr. Simone led RIT's largest capital campaign, raising \$310 million which enabled the university to add over 210 new scholarships, name three colleges, add seven new endowed professorships, build nine new campus facilities, add \$90 million in new applied research initiatives, and add \$34 million to the RIT endowment. This capital campaign enhanced RIT's reputation, made college education more accessible for more students, and gave students and faculty better resources to pursue their academic endeavors.

Thanks to Dr. Simone and the programs he has cultivated at RIT, the university has become a strong partner in regional economic development efforts. His endeavors have consistently reflected his belief that the "R" in RIT means something. Aside from creating academic programs at the university to address the business needs of Rochester and the surrounding region, Dr. Simone served as chairman of the board of the Greater Rochester Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, and currently serves on the boards of the Rochester Business Alliance, the Center for Government Research, and the Finger Lakes Partnership for the WIRED initiative. His involvement in these and countless other community organizations has benefited not only the organizations themselves, but also the university and its students by establishing important networking opportunities and using the knowledge from those relationships to inform the direction of the university.

Dr. Simone has been recognized by several organizations throughout Western New York and the Nation for his outstanding leadership and community involvement. He was the recipient of the Entrepreneurial American Leadership Award from Partners or Livable Communities (2006), the YWCA of Rochester and Monroe County Racial Justice Award (2005), the Rochester International Council International Citizen Award (2004), the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals President's Award (2001), and the Rochester Business Alliance Civic Medal among many, many others.

RIT and the community surrounding it owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Simone, and I am honored today to have the opportunity to pay tribute to his service. His legacy will live on at RIT, and I look forward to seeing the university continue to flourish. I wish Dr. Simone and his wife Carolie, their four children, and five grandchildren the best during his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES O. RICH

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate one of South Carolina's